



These are the newly elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In the middle is James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, who was reelected to a second one year term as president. At left is second vice president, J. T. Hannaford, minister of music at First Church, Moss Point. Only ten days ago, Hannaford was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Moss Point church. By Hannaford is James Hurt, who was elected first vice president. He is pastor of Immanuel Church, Cleveland. At right is Paul Harwood, pastor of College Hills Heights Church, Oxford, who was reelected as assistant recording secretary. And by Harwood is J. Clark Hensley, retired director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission. He was reelected recording secretary.

# "Look at the fields" is theme for prayer week

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—"Look at the Fields" is the theme for 1982 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The theme for the eight-day prayer observance November 28 through December 5 is taken from Matthew 9:36-38.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, calls the theme one of "peculiar timeliness."

"As we examine our world, we see greater responsiveness and greater need in more places than at any other time in human history," he said.

He urged Southern Baptists to pray consistently for the approximately 3,200 missionaries in 96 countries and to give sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering which will be taken during the week of prayer.

This year's national offering goal, set by Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, is \$58 million. It is a 14.2 percent increase over last year's \$50 million national goal which was exceeded by 1.6 percent for a total of \$50,784,173.

Commenting on the offering's history which was first taken in 1888, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, SBC, said, "It took 57 years for the Lottie Moon offering to top the \$1 million mark. In 1945, the offering was \$1,201,962.24. In 1962 it topped \$10 million for the first time.

"Eleven years later it had doubled, reaching \$22,232,757.09.

"It doubled again by 1980, when the offering was \$44,700,339.76. Since its beginning, it has provided more than half a billion dollars to foreign missions."

The offering will provide approximately 46 percent of the Foreign Mission Board's total budget for next year. The second main support of the Foreign Mission Board comes from the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

All of the offering is spent on missions. None of it is used for administrative purposes.

The offering is named for Lottie Moon, a nineteenth century Virginia woman who served for 40 years as a Southern Baptist missionary to China.

It was at Miss Moon's urgings that Southern Baptists began their annual Christmas offering for foreign missions.

## All missionaries found safe in Upper Volta

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—In the first phone contact with the Foreign Mission Board since a coup overthrew the government of Upper Volta, Southern Baptist missionary J. B. Durham reported Nov. 10 that missionaries and volunteers are safe.

His call confirmed a message he had sent Nov. 9 through U.S. Embassy channels. Disrupted communications had prevented earlier contact with the 22 missionaries and 25 to 35 volunteers in the country, said John Mills, Foreign Mission Board director for west Africa.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is cooperating with missionaries and Voltaic Baptists in a development project in the Diabo Circle region.



Keith Parks, left, president of the Foreign Mission Board, chats with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Nobles following Parks' closing message at the Mississippi Baptist Convention last week. The Nobles' daughter, Sandra, is a missionary in Africa with her husband, physician Ben Nash. Nobles is president of Mississippi College.

# Guest opinion . . . Status of Dale Moody is issue at seminary

**Editor's Note:** This may be the first time for a guest editorial to be on the front page of the Baptist Record. Editor C. R. Daley in Kentucky, however, has been the closest Southern Baptist newsman to the scene that is developing on the campus of Southern Seminary regarding Professor Dale Moody. We felt that a matter of this importance needed front page attention and also felt a direct word from someone who has been aware of the situation and who has been in extended contact with both parties involved would better serve the cause.

By C. R. Daley

A very disturbing report regarding professor Dale Moody's status with Southern Seminary was circulating among the Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers as they gathered for the annual convention last week. The report turned out to have basis and Southern Seminary President Honeycutt addressed the problem briefly in his presentation on November 10 at the annual meeting of seminary alumni in Kentucky.

By now reports including usually expected distortions have reached all areas of the convention and the secular press. We had decided to wait for other developments or formal statements from President Honeycutt and/or Professor Moody before airing the problem but we have no choice now that the secular press is handling it. We agree with Texas editor Presnell Wood that Baptist writers instead of secular writers ought to interpret Baptist problems and crises to Baptists as well as to non-Baptist readers.

The report that Professor Moody has been dismissed or has retired is not

true. He is teaching seminary classes today, (November 12) and likely will be teaching at least until the seminary trustees meet in April 1983 or until he removes himself.

Here are the basic facts as of today. Professor Moody has been the object of growing criticism from various sources because of his position on apostasy taught in seminary classes and expounded on many occasions throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The latest of these are sources in Arkansas where Moody had been invited to present his views in a state wide meeting of pastors.

To ease tensions Professor Moody was requested by the seminary administration to resign effective Dec. 31, 1982. He did not agree to do so. Then came the offer of immediate retirement with full benefits. Professor Moody agreed to this at first and so informed his students, but after a night's reflection he announced to the administration and to the students he was not retiring but he was going to Arkansas to defend his views.

Professor Moody reached the 65 retirement age about 3 years ago but, like several other outstanding professors, was given a five-year contract to continue teaching. The five-year period is about half over.

President Honeycutt clearly indicated in his remarks to the Kentucky alumni of the seminary that he will act according to procedures outlined in the seminary charter to resolve the situation if Professor Moody does not.

This procedure involves the full board of trustees which will not meet until next April unless a special meeting is called. This seems to say that

Moody will be teaching at least until that time unless he resigns or retires before then.

Professor Moody has decided not to go to Arkansas, and the tension has eased somewhat.

What are the charges against Moody? The one on which his critics center is his ideas on apostasy, which he insists are biblical. He interprets a number of biblical passages and especially Hebrews 6:4-6 to teach it is possible for one who has believed to fall away with the impossibility of repentance.

This is out of line with an article in the seminary abstract of principles which Moody signed when he joined the faculty nearly 40 years ago and again when he was employed nearly 2½ years ago under the five-year contract. The commitment to the abstract includes a promise to teach according to and not contrary to its contents.

President Honeycutt insists he stands for academic freedom and the right to interpret and debate the meaning of scripture but that the accepted framework for teaching at Southern Seminary is the abstract of principles and that the integrity seminary requires the honoring of this.

Professor Moody claims he has openly expressed his views as well as written them in his book on Christian doctrines. He says no one has used scripture to show he is wrong. He insists the Bible is above any humanly composed statement of faith and that no creed should be exalted above the Bible.

On the integrity issue of teaching contrary to the statement he has

signed, he points out that he has all along expressed his reservation about some parts of the abstract and has recommended that it be revised as was the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

When he signed the abstract of principles again 2½ years ago Moody even wrote an addendum to his agreement pointing out places of his disagreement with the abstract.

What the outcome will be is uncertain at this point. Many of us who love Professor Moody and owe him an incalculable debt upon his contribution to our understanding of the scriptures are praying some resolution short of forced resignation or dismissal will be found.

We also are concerned for the welfare of the seminary and the convention at this critical juncture.

An acceptable solution will not be easy. This is one of those tragic dilemmas when the sense of duty and integrity require souls of God to disagree on how to resolve a problem. Professor Moody is consistent with his life long commitment to the promise of the Scripture when he refuses to back down on what he is convinced is the biblical teaching on apostasy.

On the other hand President Honeycutt is bound by an oath of office to recommend to the trustees a resolution to this kind of problem when all other alternatives or resolutions are exhausted.

Let us pray that another Crawford H. Toy and another William H. Whitsett chapter of history in Southern Seminary not be written in 1982.

C. R. Daley is editor of the Western Recorder, state paper for Kentucky.

# Mississippi Baptist Convention Messengers decline action on resolutions

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptists, meeting in Jackson for their annual convention, Nov. 8-10, declined to act on two controversial resolutions after debating each.

Messengers totaling a record 1,494, also passed without discussion a \$15.07 million Cooperative Program budget and reelected James Yates to a second one year term as president of the Convention.

One measure concerned a request that a fact-finding commission be elected "to consider charges that policies and practices at Mississippi College are contrary to the standards of Mississippi Baptists." The other would have condemned the Reader's Digest condensed version of the Bible. Messengers did pass without dissent, a resolution opposing the illegal trafficking of drugs.

Discussion of the resolution concerning a fact finding commission followed the report of the Mississippi Education Commission, given by Joe Tuten, chairman, and pastor of Jackson's Calvary Baptist Church.

James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, who was reelected to a second one year term as president of the convention, recognized one who opposed adoption of the report. Charles Wilbanks, who had presented the resolution earlier, was asked to make his comments at the end of the Tuesday afternoon session since speaker William Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, had a plane to catch. Wilbanks agreed.

Before Wilbanks began, a motion was made by Harry Lucenay of Hattiesburg to limit debate, but Lucenay withdrew the motion when Wilbanks protested.

In his emotion-charged address, Wilbanks, a Corinth attorney, and former teacher at the Mississippi College School of Law, accused the school of serving liquor at student-faculty functions.

He also pointed to hiring of "people who have very, very sharp conflicts

with the Baptist faith for faculty positions on the school of law and of professors teaching Bible at MC making "half" the salaries of the law school teachers.

Wilbanks also complained of drops in student enrollment, admission of students with low entrance tests, and of generally high costs education at MC. He said tuition and room and board reaches \$5,000 per year, plus books and other costs and noted, "I don't believe the average Mississippi Baptist can go to Mississippi College."

Wilbanks said reasons for high costs include the making of the school into a "little Ole Miss" with a full athletic program.

Rebutting Wilbanks' charges in a prepared statement was Richard Hurt, assistant dean for academic affairs for the MC School of Law. He said that though some mistakes were made, "it takes years to build a great school of law." He said that it is difficult to monitor what graduate students, adults, do, but that "alcoholic beverages are not a part of any law school function." Hurt, who has also been chairman of the admissions committee for the law school, defended admissions policies as having high standards, with high entrance exam scores, and a high rate of passing for the bar exam.

Joe Tuten returned to the podium to explain that Wilbanks had made his charges to MC President Lewis Nobles, the MC trustees, and finally to the Education Commission.

Tuten said that the Education Commission serves primarily "only a liaison" role and that it is "not the Education Commission's job to involve themselves in the internal affairs of the colleges" when the convention has trustees to manage the schools. On June 23, 1982, Tuten wrote Wilbanks on behalf of the Education Commission, telling Wilbanks that the commission had voted unanimously that his charges "lacked sufficient merit to be considered further."

Tuten noted that Wilbanks acted as a gentleman in all his dealings with the commission.

David Grant of Jackson, and MC trustee vice chairman, acknowledged "considerably higher" paying salaries for the law school, but said that this does not mean that MC's religion teachers are without quality. The American Bar Association required higher salaries for accreditation purpose. Grant also said that all faculty members are not Baptists, though Baptists are always sought first, but that each faculty member is "a genuine Christian in every aspect."

Tom Roberson, pastor of Como Baptist Church, said he had a pastoral concern about the money spent on our Baptist schools. "I want to see our money spent in a very discretionary type of way." He added he believes "the training of our preachers should be foremost" in supporting Baptist schools.

Jerry Guess, pastor of Self Creek Baptist Church, Oktibeha County, said he was more interested in seeing his church's Cooperative Program gifts promoting the gospel and not a law school.

"At this point, a motion to cut off debate prevailed and messengers accepted the Education Commission's report.

The next day, when the resolutions committee reported to the convention, chairman John Barnes, retired pastor of Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, said the committee voted to recommend the convention take no action on the Wilbanks resolution. Messengers agreed by a show of hands with only a dozen dissenting. Just before that vote, Mary Libby Payne, first dean of the law school said, it was God's law school and that "We don't need investigation, we need intercession."

The other controversial resolution was brought by Michael O'Brien, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington. (Continued on page 2)

### New work in Spain

OVIEDO, Spain—Southern Baptist missionaries Dennis and Judith Hale have begun Baptist work in Spain's provincial capital of Oviedo. From preliminary work in the city, a local Baptist offered a place for services.

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## Same sermon preached twice at state convention

The same sermon was preached twice during the 1982 Mississippi Baptist Convention and nobody seemed to mind. In fact, that sermon, concerning the flight of Jonah as it compares to the preaching of the gospel message in Argentina by volunteers from Mississippi, was preached twice at the same time.

In staccato, Ignacio Lored, executive secretary of the Argentina Baptist Convention, and who speaks little English, preached his sermon in Spanish during the session on state missions, with each phrase or sentence repeated in English by Jack Glaze chairman of the religion department of Mississippi College.

Lored said Jonah realized he had to go to a foreign country which had a foreign language and a different culture.

Mississippi Baptists are in a partnership agreement to send volunteers to the three South American (Continued on page 2)



Thursday, November 18, 1982

# Messengers decline action on resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

Barnes reported his committee recommended the convention also take no action on that resolution which would have condemned the *Readers Digest* condensed version of the Bible. Barnes said the committee believed "anything that gets the word of God out, we're in favor of it."

A spirited debate followed with O'Brien saying, "I view this as an onslaught by satanic forces to diminish God's word." He quoted from a letter from Adrian Rogers, pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church, condemning the condensed version.

Joe McKeever, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus, said he'd read

the version and said, "This is the word of God; he's going to use it whether we like it or not."

Messengers voted to take no action with only a handful in opposition.

Two other resolutions passed without discussion, one naming the 1982-83 church year as "the year of the tithe," a state campaign by the Mississippi Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion department, and they voted to express appreciation to God, the host church, and all who had a part in putting the convention together.

Besides Yates, other officers elected included James Hurt, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Cleveland, as first vice president (He defeated P. J.

Scott, pastor of First Baptist Church, Olive Branch); J. T. Hannaford, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Moss Point, as second vice president; and reelected as recording and assistant recording secretaries, respectively, were J. Clark Hensley and Paul Harwood. Hensley is retired director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission. Harwood is pastor of College Hill Heights Baptist Church, Oxford.

In miscellaneous business matters, messengers passed a motion from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to begin a study committee for housing needs at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko; and for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian.

Messengers also voted to request agency reports have listed money spent and money received. Gary Johnson, pastor of Holly Bluff Baptist Church, Yazoo County, said that even though the finances are in the book of reports many cannot decipher the statistics and "we need to know what condition they are in."

David Spencer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Long Beach, moved the messengers have special prayer for Pass Road Baptist Church, Gulfport, and for its pastor and his family. Ricky Edwards the pastor, resigned Nov. 7 facing charges of bringing money into the country illegally, according to police. President Yates led the prayer.

The 1983 Mississippi Baptist Convention will meet at Jackson's First Baptist Church, Nov. 14-16 with Charles Myers, pastor of Jackson's Alta Woods Baptist Church preaching the annual sermon and Odean Puckett, pastor of First Baptist church, Natchez, as alternate.

Major speakers for the convention included Keith Parks and William Tanner presidents respectively, of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards; James Yates, who delivered the president's address; Jim Keith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, who preached the convention sermon; Harold Bennett, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee; Ignacio Loredó, executive secretary of the Argentina Baptist Convention; and Freeman Pierce, pastor of Franklin Baptist Church, Florida.

Brian Harbour, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., led each session in Bible studies.



The Gore Sisters were among groups which presented special music during the convention.



Robert and Flora Hollifield, Mississippi missionaries on furlough from Italy, talk with Marilyn Hopkins, center, consultant, state WMU department. The Hollifields were in charge of the Foreign Mission Board's exhibit, during the convention.



Visiting in the exhibit hall during the convention were Jimmy Garrard, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Lauderdale County; Avery Jones, pastor of Shubuta Baptist Church; Bud Swindall, pastor of Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church, Lincoln County; and Vernie (Mrs. Avery) Jones.

## October storms destroy Spanish Baptist churches

JATIVA, Spain (BP)—Torrential rains and flooding lashed southeastern Spain in late October leaving at least 38 people, including a Baptist layman, dead and destroying three Baptist churches.

Floods caused by broken dams wrecked Baptist churches in the towns of Alcira, Carcagente and Sumacarcel. Baptist layman Jose Garcia of Sumacarcel suffered a fatal heart attack Oct. 20, as he and his wife sought refuge in a cave when the town was evacuated. The husband of another member of the Sumacarcel congregation also died during the flooding.

Twenty Baptist families in Alcira and Sumacarcel were among more than 100,000 people left homeless. Spanish Baptists nationwide quickly responded by sending truckloads of food and clothing to stricken areas. The Baptist church in Jativa became headquarters for distribution of relief supplies. A number of homeless families were taken into homes of church members in undamaged towns.

Groups of laymen worked daily to clear mud and debris from damaged structures and the Woman's Missionary Union of the Jativa church organized work teams to clean walls and floors.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$30,000 in hunger and general relief funds Nov. 10 for food, temporary shelter, cleaning and reconstruction costs in damaged communities of the region.

Renewed rain and wind storms pounded Spain and southern Europe again Nov. 7-9, taking at least 35 more lives and leaving 13 missing and presumed dead.

## Convention tapes are available

Cassette tapes of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are available from Wayne Long Taping Service, Box 145, Lambert, Miss., 38643. They are \$3.50 each, or a set of seven tapes for \$22.

The seven are: Tape 1, Brian Harbour, "Bible Treasures," 1-3; Tape 2, Brian Harbour, "Bible Treasures," 4-6; Tape 3, Testimonies (all six); Tape 4, Earl Kelly, "State Convention Program"; Tape 5, Jim Yates, "President's Address" and Harold C. Bennett, "Sermon"; Tape 6, William Tanner, "Sermon" and Jim Keith, "Sermon"; Tape 7, Freeman Pierce, "Sermon" and R. Keith Parks, "Message."

## Changes in constitution and bylaws are read

These changes to the MBC Constitution and Bylaws were read at the 1982 Convention for action in 1983. Page references are from the 1981 Mississippi Convention Annual.

Page 9, Article III, Section 2

Each church in friendly cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and having contributed to world missions through the Cooperative Program during the preceding convention year shall be entitled to two messengers for the first one hundred members of its membership, or fraction thereof.

Page 9, Article III, Section 3

One additional messenger from each church shall be allowed for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, but no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers.

Page 9, Article III, Section 4

The messengers shall be elected and certified by the churches to the convention and must be a member of the church from which the messenger is elected.

Page 9, Article IV, Section 3

Delete "chief executive" and add "presiding"

Page 11, Article I, Section 2

Insert after the sentence ending "Convention Committee on Nominations" (Line 5), "Every association shall be represented."

Page 13, Article V

Line 4 — Delete "Clarke College, Newton, Mississippi" and the last line — Add "camps" before "and assemblies."

Page 14, Article VIII, Section 2

Line 6—Typographical error, "it" should be "its"

Page 15, Article X, Section 3

Line 3—Delete "buy, sell and transfer the same"

Page 18, Article XVIII, Section 2

Last line—Delete "interested person" and substitute "member of a cooperating Baptist church."

Page 20, Bylaw I, Section 1

Line 2—Add "or designee" after "recording secretary"

Page 21, Bylaw I, Section 2

The president of the Convention, in consultation with the vice-presidents, shall appoint, at least thirty (30) days before the annual session, a Credentials Committee of five to serve at the forthcoming sessions. This committee shall assist the Registration Committee with problems regarding registration and seating of messengers.

Page 21, Bylaw I, Section 3 (AN ADDITION)

Any messenger whose right to membership in the convention is contested by any person who is presented as a duly qualified messenger shall not

be seated until the uncontested messengers have been seated.

Page 21, Bylaw I, Section 4 (AN ADDITION)

Any contention arising on the floor concerning the seating of messengers shall be referred to the Credentials Committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the convention immediately.

Page 22, Bylaw VII, Section 3

Line 2—Delete "next annual"

Page 22, Bylaw VII, Section 5 (AN ADDITION)

Vacancies on any committee occurring between annual meetings of the convention may be filled temporarily by the Convention Board, or the Executive Committee of the Board, and those thus designated shall serve until the next annual meeting of the convention at which time the Committee on Committees shall nominate and the convention shall elect a member to complete any unexpired part of a term.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee members are Glenn Sullivan, Clarksdale, chairman; James Street, Cleveland; Jo Smith Hollman, Jackson; Harry Lucenay, Hattiesburg; and Odean Puckett, Natchez.)

## Armond Taylor rotates off board

Nine members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board rotated off of the board with the session last week of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. One of those who completed a term of service last week was Armond Taylor of Olive Branch. His name was listed in last week's issue of the *Baptist Record* as Arnold Taylor.

## Same sermon

(Continued from page 1)  
countries of Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Loredó said that "if God is leading you and taking you there, it's not the money that's important."  
He said a person needs to know only five words in Spanish to witness to people in those three countries. The English translation of these words is "Jesus is your savior, trust him."

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## Resolutions

### The illegal trafficking in drugs

WHEREAS, the Baptists of this stage recognize that drug abuse and illegal trafficking in drugs is one of the most pervasive, destructive, and corruptive practices of our society today, defying the very existence of our Christian civilization, and

WHEREAS, drug abuse and the illegal trafficking in drugs destroys individual lives and character and is challenging law enforcement and our Christian civilization and wreaking havoc upon all who engage therein, and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Baptist Convention wishes to unequivocally express undying opposition to drug abuse and the illegal trafficking in drugs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mississippi Baptist Convention does hereby reaffirm its strong opposition to the use, sale, and trafficking in illegal drugs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Baptist Convention hereby encourage law enforcement officers in rigidly enforcing the laws

governing the sale and use of illegal drugs and the forceful prosecution of any and all persons violating these laws, whomever they may be, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we as Christians hereby take this means of expressing our concern and sympathy for those who are victims of the illegal use of and trafficking in drugs and that we dedicate ourselves to pray for their recovery and rehabilitation as individuals and as Christian workers in their respective churches.

## Support of the tithe

One of the major needs in most of our churches today is to teach and lead our members to understand and accept the Biblical tithe as a minimum guide for giving to support the Lord's work through the churches.

While some members give beyond the Biblical tithe, most church members do not reach this basic level in their giving.

Great strength will be given to the churches and to world missions causes when our people understand and accept the tithe as a minimum guide for giving.

Our concern is for this great host of Baptists who give little or nothing to the work of the Lord through the churches.

Each church and church leader is responsible for teaching the people and urging their obedience through giving.

The year 1983 has been designated as "The Year of the Tithe" in Mississippi. Therefore, we the members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board commend this emphasis to the churches of the convention.

1. We urge each church to support

this emphasis in prayer.

2. We urge the *Baptist Record* to call on church lay leaders to support a tithing emphasis on the churches during the year.

3. We urge every church to have an emphasis on tithing.

4. We urge Sunday School teachers to teach special tithing lessons.

5. We urge pastors to preach sermons on tithing.

6. We urge parents to teach their children to tithe.

7. We urge every Baptist to give at least a tithe through the church.

## Yates names '83 Committee on Committees

Mississippi Baptist Convention President James Yates appointed the Committee on Committees for 1983 during the 1982 sessions of the MBC.

They are George Lee, chairman, director of missions of Lawrence, Marion, and Walthall Counties; Carolyn (Mrs. Sonny) Kee of Woodville; John Brock, pastor of Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson; Gus Merritt, pastor of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church, Newton County; and Wayne Gullett, pastor of Morrison Chapel Baptist Church, Bolivar County.

This Committee on Committees nominates members of the Committee on Order of Business, Committee on Nominations, Baptist Record Advisory Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Committee on Resolutions, and the Committee on Time, Place, and Preacher, all to be voted on at the 1983 Mississippi Baptist Convention.



## Midwestern Alumni receive charter

Mississippi alumni of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., received a charter on Nov. 10 for their state alumni association. Kermit McGregor, right, trustee at Midwestern and pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, presented the charter to Joe Young, left, president of the alumni association and pastor of Paul Church, Tallahatchie County. Wallace Lee, center, is secretary and treasurer; Kenneth Watkins, not pictured, is vice president. Such an association must have at least ten members before receiving its first charter, McGregor said. The presentation was made during Midwestern's alumni luncheon at the Baptist Building. McGregor was guest speaker.

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# Mississippi third in study course awards

NASHVILLE—Mississippi ranked third among all states in study course awards for 1981-82 with 38,284 awards, according to annual survey results compiled in the Church Study Course office at the Sunday School Board.

Florida ranked first with 58,762, followed by Texas with 41,758.

Mississippi churches ranking in the top 25 Southern Baptist churches included South Side Baptist Church, Meridian, (13), and First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, (18).

Nationwide, total study course awards increased from 448,674 to 491,780, for a gain of 10 percent from the previous year.

Diplomas earned jumped 21 percent, from 27,656 to 33,508.

William R. Cox, church study course coordinator, explained that the Southern Baptist education system combines short-term courses with a credit and recognition system.

Presently, 46 percent or 16,946 Southern Baptist churches participate in the church study course system. Ninety-eight percent or 1,226 associations received study course awards during the year.

The top five course award areas

were 1982 January Bible Study, 98,623 awards; Survival Kit for New Christians—Adult edition, 44,702; The Way to Timbuktu 18,733; Basic Adult Sunday School work, 14,824; and Basic Sunday School work, 14,729.

Christian Growth and Service and Church Training Leadership were the two subject areas which experienced the largest numerical increase.

Effective Oct. 1 the study course system began a new computerized record and report service.

Requirements and diplomas remain the same, Cox said. The new system simplifies the old record keeping system in addition to providing benefits to individuals, churches and associations.

The added services provided by the computerized system include personal transcripts which will be sent twice a year to participating churches. These transcripts contain a course-needed planning printout, as well as up-to-date information on courses already completed and diplomas earned. The computer will automatically issue diplomas when all course requirements have been filled.

Presently, 25 diplomas are offered through the study course system.



Bryant Cummings speaks to directors of missions and 8.5 by '85 representatives.

## Set enrollment goals now, urge 8.5 representatives

"For the Sunday School, a goal is a statement of faith in the future," Bryant Cummings, state Sunday School director, told the 122 present for a dinner at Denney's Restaurant, Nov. 8 in Jackson.

"Tell It Now... 8.5 x '85"—a banner at the front of the room advertised Southern Baptists' 8.5 million enrollment goal, for Sunday School by 1985. The Mississippi goal is 386,623.

Included in the Sunday School Growth Impact dinner meeting, held during the convention, were directors of missions and 8.5 representatives from associations across the state. Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, vocalist, and Mike Smith, pianist, both of Parkway Church, Jackson, presented special music.

Two men who have been successful in leading a large number of churches in their associations to set enrollment goals gave testimonies concerning their work as ASSIST directors and 8.5 representatives. E. N. Wilkinson, Jr., Perkinson pastor, reported that most of the Gulf Coast churches (all but 8 or 10) had set enrollment goals. D. M. Dixon, Jr. said all but one church in Mississippi Association have set enrollment goals. Afterward John Carr of Sharkey-Issaquena Association announced that he has contacted all his churches, and has been 100 percent successful, in that all of them have now set goals.

Cummings said that, with 64 associ-

ational letters received, a 2,463 grand total gain had been shown in Sunday School membership in Mississippi during the past year.



E. N. Wilkinson, Jr., pastor at Perkinson, speaks at the Sunday School Growth Impact dinner held at Denney's Restaurant, Jackson, Nov. 8. Wilkinson is ASSIST director and 8.5 by '85 representative in Gulf Coast Association. He has led 46 of the churches there to set enrollment goals in this Sunday School growth campaign.



## Woodville Heights to dedicate organ

Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, will have open recital on its new organ, Sunday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. Billy R. Trotter of Mississippi College and Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, will perform the concert. An assistant professor of music at MC, Trotter serves as dean of the Jackson Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The new organ is an Allen digital computer church organ. The System 805 is a three manual and pedal organ of 51 speaking stops plus alterables. One of the exclusive features is the card reader that permits the organist to select from an additional 350 sounds available on computer cards.

Key persons involved in the selection of the new organ are left to right: Jim Hawkins of Werlein's; Peggy Blackwell, organist of the church; and Raymond Ball, minister of music. Carl Savell is pastor, Steve Sparks is electrical and sound engineer for the church.

## Church members invited to sing in MC "Messiah"

Church choir member will have an opportunity to take part in the Mississippi College presentation of Handel's "Messiah" during this Christmas season. By participating in one of the Hinds County area rehearsals and the final dress rehearsal on Dec. 4, singers may join the college cantata and concert choirs in singing this Christmas piece Sunday, Dec. 5, at 2:30 p.m. in Nelson Auditorium at the college.

Rehearsals will be held Sunday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. at both Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, and

Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton. Those attending the Woodland Hills practice will be under direction of Mississippi College faculty member James Glass; the Morrison Heights session will be directed by that church's minister of music, Bill Barnes.

Dress rehearsal will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m., in Nelson Auditorium at Mississippi College, under direction of Jack Lyall, head of the music department.

The Christian life is like an airplane. When you stop, you drop.

## Med Center stress seminar to be Dec. 2

The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson will present a seminar on the links between communications, health, and stress-induced illness on Dec. 2. An earlier story in the Baptist Record mistakenly reported that the seminar would meet Dec. 8.

Sponsored by the University Hospital department of pastoral services, the one-day program is designed primarily for professionals in the fields of pastoral care, medicine, psychiatry, psychology and social work.

## Global Circuit begins 12th

RICHMOND, Va.—For the 12th consecutive year, Southern Baptists interested in foreign mission news will have access to current information through a toll-free member.

Global Circuit will be operating Nov. 25 through Dec. 10. Brief, specific prayer requests and foreign mission news will change every Tuesday and Friday morning during the two-week period. The number is 1-800-446-2725.

For callers in Virginia, Alaska and Hawaii, who cannot use the toll-free number, the same information is available from 1-804-355-6581. The charge will be for a three-minute station-to-station call.

Last year more than 7,000 calls came in during the two-week time.

## Lyle will head Maryland Baptists

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)—Kenneth R. Lyle, a native Texan and pastor of Baptist Tabernacle in Atlanta, Ga., was elected unanimously executive director-treasurer elect for the Baptist Convention of Maryland Oct. 28 at a special called session of the state mission board.

The board's executive committee considered more than 50 persons during its 11-month search for a successor to Roy Gresham who will retire Dec. 31 after 25 years.

Ralph Ehren, chairman of both the executive committee and search committee, reviewed the search process for state mission board members and introduced the candidate and his wife, Judy, who had flown in from Atlanta for the meeting.

Lyle is a graduate of Mississippi College, earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary and has pursued doctoral studies from Southeastern Seminary.

Lyle was director of missions for the Metropolitan New York Association for eight and one-half years. He has been pastor of churches in New York, Texas, and Mississippi.

## Missionary's daughter speaks to Iuka youth

Amy L. Myers, daughter of Payton S. Myers, missionary serving in Nigeria, spoke to the youth of Iuka Baptist church on October 19.

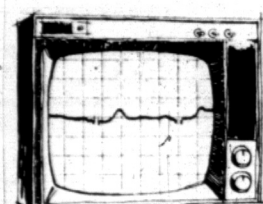
The youth honored Amy with a reception in the church's Fellowship Hall to celebrate her October birthday.

Amy has been adopted by the WMU of the Iuka church, as one of their "projects" in foreign mission work for this year. Kenneth Murphy is pastor; Dilva Massey is WMU director.

## Calvary RAs work for world hunger

The RAs of Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Grove community, Lamar Association, sold "Trick or Treat" insurance policies for a total of more than \$100.00, with all proceeds going to world hunger. The Calvary Church gave an additional \$875 for world hunger. One RA said, "Our church really cares."

RA counselors are Mark Davion and Charles Downing. Raymond McMahon is director and Douglas E. Benedict, Sr., is pastor.



## Intensive care

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### Women working

We are told that more than 50 percent of women work outside the home. Is not this the reason for family breakdowns? Is not the woman's place in the home? P.S.

Yes, it is estimated that more than 70 percent of women between the ages of 25 and 54 will be in the job market by the end of the 1980's and that the non-working mother will be somewhat an endangered species.

However, the idea of a woman's place being in the home is a fairly recent concept. The early rural American woman spent much time working in the fields and then moved into the factory with the coming of the Industrial Revolution. The "virtuous woman" described in Proverbs 31 certainly "worked outside the home."

No doubt most mothers of young children would prefer to stay at home. Many work from necessity, others to help meet rising costs, pay for education of children, medical care, and yet others for personal fulfillment or in a sense of calling from the Lord. Most women working outside try to find satisfactory child care which often is provided by some other woman working "outside."

Some men bring home at least part of the bacon and then help cook it. There is not so much danger of a family breakdown when both the husband and wife take their place in the home, sharing responsibilities for child care and household responsibilities.

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, the Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## capsules

### MasterLife in Israel

NAZARETH, Israel—Eleven church workers, from Arabic and Hebrew-speaking congregations in the Galilee area, have completed the first MasterLife course ever taught in Israel. They agreed that the course taught them by Foreign Mission Board representatives Dale and Anita Thorne should be translated into the two major languages of Israel as soon as possible. Plans are underway for a second course to be taught in English this fall, possibly in Beersheba.

### Roloff killed

NORMANGE, Texas (EP)—A small airplane piloted by evangelist Lester Roloff crashed in a field near here Nov. 2, killing all five people aboard, officials said.

### Adventist wins

WASHINGTON (BP)—Essie Morris, a Seventh-day Adventist who lost her nurse's aide job at a private Long Island, N.Y., hospital for refusing to work on her Sabbath, will be reinstated with back pay following the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to review a lower decision in her favor.

Like Jews, Seventh-day Adventists observe their day of worship on the traditional Sabbath, which runs from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

### Nears 700,000

DALLAS (BP)—Texas Baptists shattered their all-time Sunday School High Attendance Day record by almost 40,000 with a total attendance of nearly 700,000.

On Great Day in the Morning Oct. 31, Texas Baptist Sunday Schools reported attendance of 695,953, six percent more than the goal of 656,565. The previous high was 656,196 in 1980.

### Gets probation

GOSHEN, Ind. (EP)—Mark Schmucker, a 22-year-old Goshen College student, was sentenced October 19 by Federal District Court Judge Ann Aldrich in Cleveland to three years probation and ordered to pay a \$4,000 fine for violating the Military Selective Service Act.

Schmucker must spend the first 24 months of his probation in alternative service at a home for retarded adults as one of the conditions outlined by Judge Aldrich. He reported Oct. 26 to Emmaus House, which serves 125 severely and profoundly retarded adults

in Marthasville, Mo.

Judge Aldrich added, "This Court specifically does not make your registering for the draft a condition of your probation. This Court believes that such a condition would insult what this Court believes to be an honest religious conviction on your part." The judge also said, "The prayers of many of us are with you."

### Siberian Seven

WASHINGTON (EP)—Legislation which would allow seven Soviet Pentecostals to become resident aliens of the United States remains stalled in a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee chaired by Romano Mazzoli (D-KY).

Members of the Vaskchenko and Chmykhalov families, known as the "Siberian Seven," have lived in the basement of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow since June 27, 1978. The native Siberians had come to the Embassy to discuss their 20-year struggle to emigrate. The group remains in the Embassy because they fear Soviet reprisals.

### One killed, two hurt in Zambian accident

KABWE, Zambia (BP)—A Zambian Baptist was killed and another Zambian and a missionary journeyman injured in a one-car accident Nov. 6 near Kabwe, Zambia.

Killed was Clement Lungu, 21, who had made a public commitment to fulltime Christian service several weeks earlier, according to missionaries. He was being trained by the injured journeyman, David Griffin of Lubbock, Tex.

Griffin suffered a concussion and other head injuries. He was moved from the Kabwe Hospital to a hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe, Nov. 8, to be under the care of Giles Fort, missionary physician in Harare.

The other young man injured, Stephen Kabanga, was transferred from Kabwe to a hospital in Lusaka, Zambia, and later released. Griffin went to Lusaka, Zambia, in the summer of 1981 to work as a religious knowledge teacher for two years.

### "Lock and Key"

America's inmate nation, over a quarter of a million strong, who make up the population of this country's prisons, will be the subject of the NBC News religious program, "The Lock and the Key," to be televised on NBC Sunday, Nov. 21 (5-6 p.m. EST).

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## Editorials

## It was a fine convention

by don mcgregor

After covering in some fashion 24 state conventions in three states in addition to a like number of Southern Baptist Convention sessions all over the nation, it is almost possible that they all will seem to be about the same. It begins to be a sort of a they come and they go proposition.

This year's Mississippi convention, however, had some of the finest hours that I have witnessed. I didn't get to attend a great deal of it because moving the starting day to Monday causes convention attendance and Baptist Record production to become more entangled, making it more difficult to attend convention sessions consistently. I was able, however, to be on hand for some of its finest times.

Perhaps the most inspirational moment to me was the presentation of the combined efforts of Ignacio Loredó, executive secretary for Argentine Baptists, and Jack Glaze, head of the department of religion at Mississippi College. Glaze, a former missionary to Argentina, was the interpreter.

It was thrilling and inspiring to see these two close friends working together in the presentation of a message that challenged Mississippi Baptists to become involved in Mississippi Partners with the Rio de la Plata, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Loredó's warmth and friendliness comes across to the audience even though he is speaking in a foreign tongue. Glaze's animated delivery, even in interpretation, makes the message even more meaningful. Loredó spoke during the Monday evening state convention program. As he came to the conclusion of his message he began to push harder for volunteers to go to Argentina. He pointed out that a Mississippian could preach in Spanish by using the simple phrase, "Jesus

(Hay-sus) es su salvador. Recibalo." Translated, this is, "Jesus is your savior. Trust him." Then suddenly he began singing "Alleluia" and asked the audience to join him. Using the same tune, he changed the words to "Cristo Salva." (Jesus saves). And the convention was well on its way.

Other messages were inspiring as well. James Yates' president's address on Monday afternoon was a discussion on communicating the gospel. The annual sermon by Jim Keith, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, spoke to the making of disciples.

The final session on Wednesday morning turned into one of the high hours of the convention because of the messages of Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, and a Mississippian named Freeman Pierce, pastor of Franklin Church, Florida.

Pierce delivered a challenge that there not be criticism of the Cooperative Program without understanding what it does and that there not be complaints concerning denominational services without providing opportunities for them to be effective. As he concluded his message he was greeted by a standing ovation.

Parks delivered the concluding message of the convention. He thrilled his audience as he spoke from his storehouse of knowledge of the ministry of foreign missions. It was sobering as well as thrilling, however, as he noted that Southern Baptists are doing better than any other group in the matter of witnessing on a worldwide scale. Then he said, "If we are doing better than anyone else, God is leaning on a mighty fragile staff."

More young people are volunteering for missions work than ever before and more are being appointed to foreign mission posts, he said. There will be 70

missionaries appointed in December, bringing the appointment number for this year to about 400. At this point there are 3,191 missionaries. Of those, 183 are Mississippians.

Parks said that there is more personnel available among Southern Baptists to preach the gospel than any Protestant group has ever sent out. The response is rising like a flood tide, he added. But in spite of the record number of missionaries going to the field, the only limit to the number of people finding Christ is someone to tell them about Jesus.

"We are too busy to do what God has called us to do," he declared.

Parks noted that five percent of the graduates of the seminaries go overseas, and 95 percent serve in the United States among five percent of the world's population.

Last year there was one missionary appointed for each 97,000 Southern Baptists, and it takes 5,000 Southern Baptists to keep each missionary on the field.

Parks said that in the Philippines and in Korea the response is so great that it is impossible to keep up with it. India, he said, is trembling on the edge of a revival the likes of which the world has never seen.

"We are standing on the brink of the greatest opportunity ever known in history," he declared.

Even in its business sessions the convention had to its inspiring moments. Of course, that statement would be altered somewhat according to the perspective of the people involved. In trying to look at the session from an objective standpoint, however, it seems that the convention acted as responsibly as it was possible for it to do.

Two major issues of controversy

came before the body. One was a matter of complaints about the law school at Mississippi College, which is noted in a Page 1 story in this issue. The complaints were brought by Charles Wilbanks, an attorney from Corinth, and he chose to make his stand by challenging the report of the Education Commission. And though his presentation did not fit into the order of the day or speak specifically to the issue at hand, the convention wanted to hear him. He was allowed as much time as he desired to present his case. Applause for some of his points indicated that he had support. Discussion was allowed between the two opposing viewpoints.

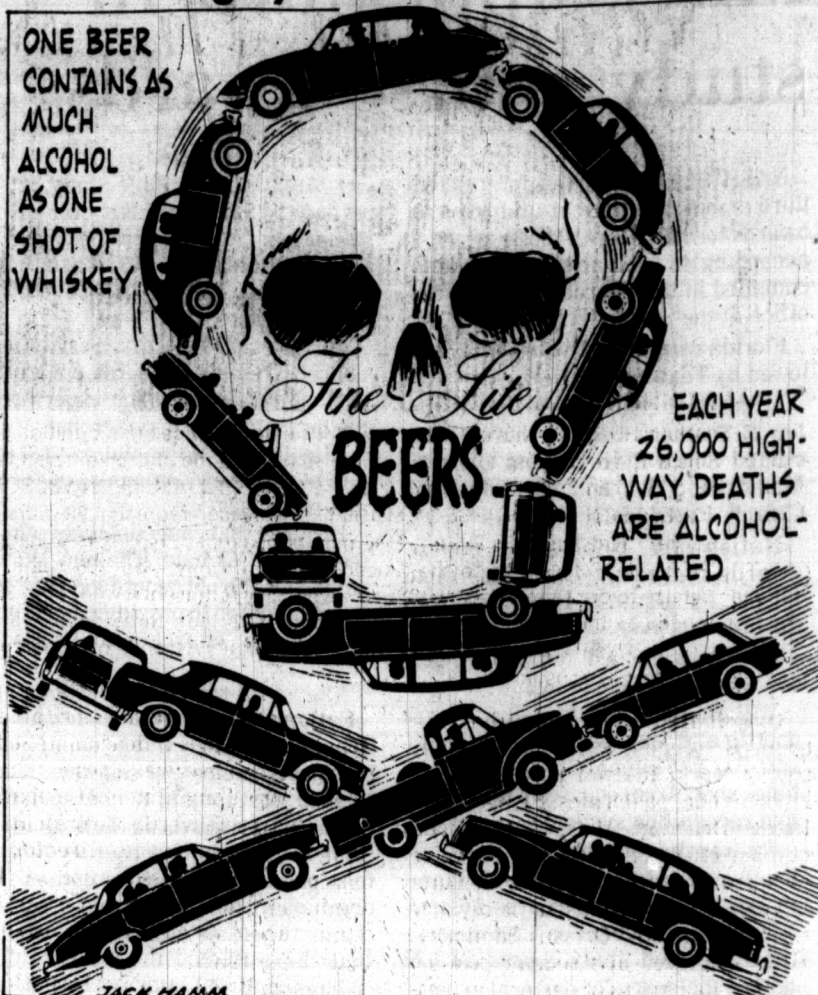
The adoption of the Education Commission report became a test vote, however; and when it was taken, few voted with Wilbanks.

The same was true in an issue involving the Reader's Digest Condensed Bible. This was brought before the convention in the form of a resolution opposing the Bible by Michael O'Brien, pastor of First Church, Lexington. Again the convention listened, and again two sides of the issue were presented as fully as was desired. In this case, the test vote was on a motion to take no action at all on the resolution; and it won handily.

But in both instances the convention listened respectfully to those holding different viewpoints on an issue. When the votes were taken the issues were settled decisively, but all sides had received a fair hearing.

Surely those who were on the losing sides of the two votes were disappointed, for in both instances the issues had deep emotional overtones. In the Baptist way of life, however, the decision belongs to the majority. In these cases, according to the vote, the majority included almost everybody.

## Highly Hazardous Mixture



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

## "Children are wet cement"

October 17 was Mother's Day in Argentina. Our plane took off from Buenos Aires in a thunderstorm, but long before Donna, Pattie, Joan, Lola, and I got to Cordoba we were flying high in the sunshine.

Missionaries Don and Margie Mines, Bob Garrett, and Kenneth Park met us, and we got to Villa Bautista, in time for lunch. Outside the gate of the Baptist camp, I saw horses, and gauchos. Inside the gate, I saw buildings with red tile roofs; sweet williams hugging small shrubs; spring-greened willows leaning over a sparkling little creek; wild red verbenas dotting the grass; cows grazing on hills beyond the fence; and shadows on the towering, rocky sierras, in the not-too-far distance, shifting with the light.

At four we met with Janene Ford and Ben Bedford, for orientation. After supper we met the missionary kids we'd been thinking about for weeks. That night from 7 to 10, as Donna said, they were "just a blur of humanity." By Tuesday we would know them as real people, each with a distinct and lovable personality, but that Sunday night we were tired and discouraged. Though I had plenty of ideas in my notebook, I now knew I was going to need, in my brain and on my tongue, a fascinating new activity, at least every 15 minutes! I would not be having time to refer to a notebook.

Coqueta, our brick cottage, was lovely. But our clothes were still in suitcases. Sharing one room, we had a closet; yet no one but Donna had thought to bring hangers. Donna and I were on top bunks, and my suitcase was under Joan's bed. The mirror was over Lola's bed. Pattie had a flashlight, but I assured her I could see in the dark well enough to climb down the ladder to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

But rest and a new day brought fresh anticipation. I kept remembering Anne Ortlund's great new book, *Children Are Wet Cement*, and thinking, "I must be careful of footprints I make here."

Being with them for 8 to 10 hours a day, five days, we got to know these brilliant, quicksilver children, who can speak two languages, who have lived in two or more countries, who one minute can be mischievous or disobedient, like any kids and the next can twist your heart around their little fingers. We had come far from Mississippi so that their mothers might attend a MasterLife conference at the camp. For sure, my eight (ages 9, 10, 11) cemented some footprints on my memory. I never want to forget:

Donnie Acree, talking non-stop... laughing as he fills a water balloon... climbing a tree to peep into a bird's

nest... being proud of his Bible study book. (In the mornings I taught the 1983 January Bible study unit for older children, *Learning About Bible Times and Places*. Accidentally I gave Donnie a book in which I had underlined a few sentences. When he discovered my markings, he got a new book and did all the exercises over.)

Kevin Ballard asking, "May I ride the horses?"... running ahead of the others to jump onto the garbage wagon for a ride behind the tractor... collecting twigs for the trees around our "clay village"... thinking up crazy stunts for people to do in "Pleased or Displeased?"

Greg Smothers, double-jointed in every joint (honestly)... describing the big tadpole he saw in the creek... showing me a woodpecker... helping the two-year-olds tie their balloons... staying to help me clean up the room after the others have gone. (When Lola showed her nature slides and asked for names of "little things," it was Greg who said, "I guess Bible verses must be about the least, because people find it so easy to ignore them.")

Greg Benfield, as editor of the *Bible Times*, assigning stories to his "reporters"; sitting on a rock wall by the creek... wanting to go swimming (the pool, fed from artesian springs, was too cold)... helpfully bringing refreshments from the snack bar... being quietly attentive during study times.

Stephen Witherspoon's quick sense of humor, and the twinkle in his eyes... his artistic talent—cleverly shaping furniture, people, animals, of modeling clay... making exquisite sequin designs on a styrofoam Christmas ornament... revealing maturity in being the first to apologize after an argument.

Heather McNair, at the head of the line in "Follow the Leader," wading in icy water as the pool fills... scratching her arms on thorns as she climbs a tree—and jumping off a limb when an Argentine man tells her the thorns are poison... surprising me with her gift of flowers in a miniature bottle on which she has painted my name!... winning me with a hug.

Julie Ford, excited over books I brought, finding it hard to choose the one she likes best... dictating a letter to my GAs... lovingly helping Pattie feed young Kevin Vick his breakfast... singing a duet with Heather during the musical that Lola Autry directed. David McEntire, whose smile is sunny, friendly, agreeable... David, making a monkey from construction paper and paper plates... hanging by his knees from a swing... excited over a gift of bubble gum... (David saying a prayer for "Teacher." That was all the pay I needed.)

## Guest Opinion

## The post convention blues

By Guy Henderson

We are never too far from the juniper tree. After a good convention of stirring messages, thrilling reports, and superb fellowship, we find ourselves at home where few things have changed. The same old problems in the church, or the eight to five grind, and battered and strained relationships continue to crop up like painted ducks in a shooting gallery. "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen" becomes our theme song as we sink lower in the sea of despair.

Excellent reports on our foreign mission work! Don't they ever have problems out there? Church growth increasing and superchurches buying more parking lots than we buy quarterlies! Home Mission Board missionaries touching so many lives in unique ways—"Why can't I ever see those opportunities? What's wrong

with me; I feel like an Edsel at the World Car Convention. Is there no balm in Gilead?"

"The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong..." opined the preacher (Eccl. 9:11). This plea for patience is valid in spite of the fact that the same preacher declared "for a living dog is better than a dead lion." (Eccl. 9:4). The temptation to be "successful" can blind us to our real task. It's not what have I done but what has God done through me? Envy is a sin whether on Madison Avenue or Caney Creek. It's the Master's vineyard; and His reward is based on faithfulness to the opportunity at hand, not according to the size of the clusters. Am I where God wants me to be, and am I doing what God wants me to do. Two affirmatives should add up to Philippians 4:11... "I am... content."

If we still fall short of this "peace in

the valley," perhaps it is time for a self-examination. Probe into the real me and see if "it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." If it is pleasing to God, then what should our attitude be?

It's not the New Year, but some resolutions would assuredly be in order. Hang my ambitions on the cross and determine that Christ will live in me and I in Him would say it all. Surely there would be the desire to equip ourselves to become effective workers for our Lord. Skills could be sharpened to make us witnesses in the classroom or in the market place. We would be eager to "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman..." (II Tim. 2:15).

There is much concern today in evangelical circles because we have so many professing Christians and so few active soul-winners. The coming year

is suggested as a time to train at least 10 percent of your Sunday School attendance to be effective witnesses for Christ. Dr. L. R. Scarborough said, "the pre-eminent spirit of soul-winning evangelism will prevent many sorrows, troubles, and trials in the churches. It will cure division, it will heal broken fellowships, it will build the old waste places; it will preserve our loyalty to the truth, it will preserve our ministry from dry rot and spiritual death."

This could spell relief from mundane and peripheral issues that keep us from the main task. The blues would be dispelled and a new excitement invade our lives. Unusual spiritual growth comes to the believer who vocalizes his faith and shares the gospel in testimony and proclamation.

Guy Henderson is Mississippi Baptist evangelism director.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words, and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

## Season of thanksgiving

Editor:

This is the time of year when our thoughts turn to thanksgiving for the blessings of God. Granted, gratitude should be our practice year round. Yet, it is good that we have a season each year that reminds us to be thankful.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I wish to express my gratitude to Mississippi Baptists for the contribution they have made to my life.

I was saved and baptized at age 10 in a Mississippi Baptist church (Magee's

Creek in Walthall County). At age 25, I was licensed to the ministry by another Baptist church in our state (First Church, Richland, in Rankin County). It is now my privilege to serve that church as Minister of Education.

I am presently in my second year at New Orleans Seminary. Mississippi Baptists, through their gifts to the Cooperative Program, help make my seminary education possible.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for caring and for sharing.

Dale Sauls  
Richland

Thank you for this testimony.—  
Editor

## Who needs Playboy?

Editor:

You ran an article in last week's paper reporting the fact that *Playboy Magazine* contained an article which, at best, is blasphemous. The article stated that several ministers were up in arms about it and were going to distribute copies to 160,000 ministers, presumably so that they can lambast *Playboy Magazine* for its irreverence. I would like to make a few comments relative to this matter.

First, I do not read *Playboy Magazine*. I don't look at the pictures. I don't even touch it on the news stand. Why should any Christian have anything to do with such a patently UN-CHRISTIAN publication? What can we learn from it about the quality of life, good or bad, that is not discussed in the Bible or in Christian publications? There is no room for such garbage in the life of a Christian.

There is no limit to powerful and exciting sermon subject matter in the scriptures. Why should pastors have to speak on the subject of a magazine article? I can tell you that if 160,000 pastors get up and preach against an article in *Playboy Magazine*, sales of that magazine will SOAR!

I believe myself to be a morally right person, but God forbid that I be labeled a moralist if it means that I have to read trashy magazines to find subject

matter for my moralizing. I believe too many pastors have become moralists and forgotten to preach the Word of God. I think it is time we turned our eyes upon Jesus.

Robert C. Woodman  
Hattiesburg

## Drinking and death

Editor:

My heart is filled with appreciation for your recent articles and editorials in regard to drunk driving. Many people are not aware of the staggering statistics of the fatalities and injuries related to drunk driving. Through the *Baptist Record*, Southern Baptists have been informed of the severity of these statistics.

In December, 1980, our 15-year-old daughter was killed and her friend seriously injured in an automobile accident related to drunk driving. We know first-hand the effects drunk driving can have on families, both emotionally and physically.

We sometimes become oblivious to the fact that we live in a democratic society. As Americans, we can voice our opinion. Ronald Sisk, in a recent article in the *Baptist Record*, suggested that each Southern Baptist phone his or her legislators urging their state laws be brought into compliance with the provisions set forth by a new bill authorizing financial incentives for states which enact these stricter laws against drunk driving. We, as Southern Baptists, can join forces and voice our opinion. We can do something! Thank you, *Baptist Record*, for doing your part.

Linda Pace  
Church Secretary  
Prentiss Baptist Church  
Prentiss

Thank you very much for this first-hand testimony.—Editor

## Twisted statistics

Editor:

It is unfortunate that national articles distort religious statistics. By counting those denominations which

baptize infants, northern states are incorrectly shown as having more church-affiliated people than the South, which is not correct. Since most in the South are Baptists, this seriously misrepresents the actual status.

The statistics of this kind, recently syndicated by George Cornell, have no excuse; he knows better, for he was raised a Southern Baptist but has not been one for years. The figures were manufactured in New England and not surprisingly, show New England as the most religious part of the country, which is not correct.

Charles G. Hamilton  
Aberdeen

## Lawsuit claims healer hurt her

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (EP)—An evangelist who allegedly slugs disease demons out of people is being hit with a \$1 million suit by a woman whose hip was broken during a church healing session, reports *Group* magazine.

Juanita and Ronald Embree said they visited Assembly of the Lord Jesus Christ in July, 1981, to hear visiting healer Arnold Staten. When the healing part of the service began, Staten offered to cure the stomach problem of Louise Gillwater, Mrs. Embree's sister-in-law. The suit claims Staten said he would "knock it out" of her and punched the woman in the stomach. Gillwater was knocked backward into Mrs. Embree and both fell. The fall broke Mrs. Embree's hip in several places.

Staten, the suit claims, ordered Mrs. Embree to walk. The church organist continued to play, while Staten's helpers pulled her to her feet twice. A bystander finally called for an ambulance. Mrs. Embree spent 20 days in a hospital and was readmitted twice for complications. The suit asks for \$1,050,000 in damages from several parties.



LEARNING ABOUT BIBLE TIMES AND PLACES with Anne McWilliams, right, of Clinton, are missionary kids Greg Smothers, David McEntire, Kevin Ballard (standing), Stephen Witherspoon, Greg Benfield, Donnie Acree, Heather McNair, and Julie Ford. Greg Smothers, Kevin, and Heather have lived in Mississippi.

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Don McGregor, Editor

Tim Nicholas, Associate Editor

Anne McWilliams, Editorial Associate

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James Yates

President

Earl Kelly

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Thursday, November 18, 1982

# Names In The News...



MACEDONIA CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, recently held a service of recognition for four deacons who are rotating to inactive, three years after the church entered the rotating deacons plan. Left to right, the four are CLAY GILLIAM, LEON WILSON, NORRIS ROBERTSON, and SPURGEON MOODY. "These men represent 99 years of deacon service," said James B. Shirley, chairman of deacons, "149 years of happy marriage, 182 years of service to the Macedonia community, and 205 years of Christian service to our Lord. Along with their wives, they represent a whopping 364 years of service to the Macedonia community and more than three centuries of Christianity." (Last year Macedonia Church led Union County Association in percentage of giving to missions, at 28%.)

Russell Reid of Brandon has announced that he is available for pulpit supply work, interim pastorates, or bi-vocational pastorates. He lives at 42 Roxie, Brandon, Miss. 39042, phone number 825-6696. Reid has a bachelor of science degree from Delta State University and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He is employed in a secular position and has four years of pastoral experience.

Fellowship (Choctaw) ordained Robert Burdine as a deacon on Sept. 26. Special music was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Kinton of Carthage. E. B. Shivers delivered the ordination sermon. James Drane, director of missions, Choctaw Association, led the ordination prayer. Hubert Smith, chairman of deacons, Fellowship Church, presented the certificate of ordination. Roy A. Marshall is pastor.

At Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Mrs. Hubert Q. Pray will soon celebrate her 25th anniversary as church organist. A reception given by church members will be held in her honor after the evening service on Sunday, Nov. 21, in Fellowship Hall. Mrs. Pray joined the staff of Colonial Heights on Nov. 18, 1956, and served as organist for ten years. She moved away for one year and then after her return has filled this position for the last 15 years. J. Gerald Harris is pastor and Donald Bennett is minister of music.

Dennis Conniff III has been named supervisor of the Broadman supplies section in the Broadman division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

He was minister of education at Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., prior to moving to the Sunday School Board. He served in similar positions at First Baptist Church, Long Beach, Miss., and Oakhurst Baptist Church, Fort Worth. He is the son of Dennis Conniff, Jr., retired architectural consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Don Henderson, pastor of First Church, Nesbit, is in Baptist Memorial (Central) Hospital in Memphis recovering from an auto accident Oct. 22 in which he suffered facial lacerations, and hip and ankle fractures. He is out of intensive care, and according to a church member, though progress is slow, the prognosis is good.

First Baptist Church, Anguilla, has licensed to the gospel ministry Rip Noble, a native of Utica, and now a farmer in the Anguilla area.

Moak's Creek Church near Bogue Chitto has awarded pins for perfect attendance in Sunday School to Jessie Williams, one year; Shirley Parker, two years; Edwin Johnson, three

years; Bernie Parker, five years; Tobie Wells, 5 years; Judson Johnson, six years; Louise Hodges, 10 years; Loretta Hall, 10 years; Melvin Walters, 16 years. Loretta Hall has perfect attendance in Church Training. Estus Mason of Crystal Springs is interim pastor, since the death of Cecil Hubbard, pastor.

## Elections dim chances for school prayer, abortion

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—Abortion and public school prayer legislation—unsuccessful in the current Congress—apparently face even stiffer resistance in the 98th Congress set to convene in January.

A New York Times/CBS survey comparing views of present House members with those of the new Congress, as well as post election comments by politicians on both sides of these emotionally-volatile issues, underscore the diminished chances of enacting such social legislation.

While the New York Times/CBS survey showed 51 percent of the present House members oppose a constitutional amendment permitting organized prayer in public schools, that opposition jumps to 56 percent for the

new Congress with 77 percent of the freshmen members against the measure.

On abortion the survey found opponents of a constitutional amendment allowing states to prohibit abortion increasing from 54 percent in the present Congress to 58 percent in the new one. Nearly three-fourths of the freshmen members oppose the proposed amendment.

The Nov. 2 elections lessened the chances of President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment on school prayer, according to an aide to the House sponsor of the measure, Rep. Thomas N. Kindness, R-Ohio. Though the Ohio congressman plans to reintroduce the measure in the next Congress his aide told Baptist Press, "The far right agenda has been de-

emphasized by the election results."

The prayer amendment's chances in the new Senate are uncertain, but don't appear to be improved because the election made little change in that body.

"Our emphasis needs to be on fiscal matters," said an aide to Sen. J. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., chairman of the Senate Judiciary committee, who has promised President Reagan to reintroduce the prayer amendment in the next Congress.

While Thurmond fully supports the prayer measure, the aide said his priorities in the new Congress are the balanced budget amendment and the crime package.

The fate of a constitutional amendment on abortion pushed by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, also remains uncertain. The amendment was withheld from floor consideration this fall after Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., agreed to give Hatch ample time to debate the measure in the next Congress.

One political consultant who supports the school prayer and abortion legislation downplayed the election's damage to these causes.

While admitting that anti-abortion and pro-school prayer forces lost ground in the House, Edward E. McAtee, president of The Religious Roundtable and a Baptist layman from Memphis, Tenn., said they "came out stronger" in the Senate.

(Chesser writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

## Committees are elected

These people were elected to committee positions at the 1982 Mississippi Baptist Convention.

**Resolutions Committee:** John Barnes, chairman, retired pastor, Main Street, Hattiesburg; Bill Baker, pastor, First, Clinton; John Harper, lay, Starkville; Mrs. Larry Otis, lay, Tupelo; James Street, pastor, First, Cleveland; R. P. Sugg, lay, Jackson; Beverly Tinnin, pastor, First, Meridian.

**Order of Business (Two year terms):** John Armistead, pastor, Calvary, Tupelo; Bob Hanvey, pastor, First, Hazlehurst; (One year term): Ervin Brown, director of missions, Northwest Association; (Three year terms): Larry Kennedy, pastor, First, Laurel; George McFadin, minister of music and education, First, Horn Lake;

**Committee on Nominations:** John McCall, chairman, retired pastor, Vicksburg; Bartis Harper, pastor, Tyertown Church; Mrs. Vincent Scoper, lay, Laurel; Charles Stubblefield, pastor, First, Ecru; Larry Thornton, lay, Cleveland;

**Committee on Constitution and Bylaws:** David Hall, chairman, pastor, First, West Point; Nathan Barber, pastor, First, Bay St. Louis; Alan Day, pastor, First, McComb; Bradley Pope, campus minister, Mississippi College; Mrs. Charles Tyler, lay, Collins;

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee (Three year terms):** Robert Jackson, pastor, First, Brandon; Dan Thompson, pastor, First, Ackerman; Time, Place, and Preacher Committee: Joe Tuten, chairman, pastor, Calvary, Jackson; Joel Haire, pastor, First, Crystal Springs; Ken Marler, pastor, First, Houston; Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association; Norris Stampey, lay, Jackson.

These recommendations were from the Committee on Committees which consisted of Raymond Lloyd, chairman, pastor, First, Starkville; John Causey, pastor First, Corinth; Frank Gunn, pastor, First, Biloxi; and Robert Self, pastor, First, Brookhaven.

## Messengers affirm new trustees, Board members

The Committee on Nominations presented names of new Mississippi Baptist Convention Board members, and trustees of Baptist institutions, to be voted on by convention messengers. The following were elected. Asterisks denote at-large members.

The Committee on Nominations included Gordon Sansing, Pontotoc, chairman; Jim McGee, Grenada; Dennis Johnsey, Summit; Farrell Blankenship, Hattiesburg; and Gerald Buckley, Natchez.

### Convention Board members

Term expires 1983  
Marion, Mrs. Wm. Patterson (Uhl), Columbia

Marshall, Donna Stewart, Red Banks  
Sunflower, Frank Baker, Indianola

Term expires 1984  
Clay, Tom McCurley, West Point

DeSoto, Ralph Stovall, Walls

Kemper, Jim Snowden, Porterville

Lafayette, Jerry Patterson, Oxford

Noxubee, R. S. McCrory, Macon

TERM EXPIRES 1985

Attala, L. Edward Gandy, Kosciusko

Carroll, George Smith, Carrollton

Greene, John Henry, Richton

Greene, Wilbur Walters, Richton

Grenada, Alton Yarbrough, Grenada

Grenada, William Waddle, Grenada

Gulf Coast, Mrs. Elise Curtis, Gulfport

Hinds-Madison, Schuyler Batson\*

Holmes, John Sproles, Lexington

Jasper, J. E. (Edd) Holloman, Heidelberg

Jeff Davis, Ray Henry, Oakvale

Jeff Davis, Ingram Foster, Jr., Prentiss

Jones, Harold Ishee, Laurel

Lamar, Frank Harmon, Purvis

Lauderdale, James Ruffin, Meridian

Lawrence, Archie Herrin, Monticello

Lebanon, W. A. Fordham, Petal

Lebanon, Mrs. Arthell Kelley, Hattiesburg

Lee, Leo Barker, Baldwin

Leflore, Mrs. Helene H. Johnson, Greenwood

Lincoln, George G. Aultman, Brookhaven

Mississippi, Charles Holifield, Liberty

Monroe, George Henley, Becker

Montgomery, James S. Allen, Winona

Panola, Floyd Higginbotham, Batesville

Pearl River, G. A. McCoy, Picayune

Perry, Frank Jones, Richton

Quitman, Wayne Long, Lambert

Riverside, Pat Nowell, Tunica

Scott, Frank Morgan, Forest

Tate, Claude Lazenby, Senatobia

Washington, Jimmy Furr, Greenville

Winston, James Gibson, Louisville

### BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

Term Expires 1985

Susan Puckett, Blue Mountain

James Milton Burns, Gulfport

Hardy Denham, Newton

### CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Terms Expires 1985

Mrs. Glen Pearson, Hattiesburg

John Stone, Jackson

Jim Travis, Jackson

Milton Burd, Cleveland

Mrs. James Hitt, Jackson

### EDUCATION COMMISSION

Term Expires 1983

John Brock, Jackson

Hines Cronin, Moss Point

W. H. Johnson, Decatur

Gene Henderson, Columbus

Wayne Coleman, Terry

### HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Term Expires 1985

Larry Thornton, Cleveland

D. D. Roach, Columbus

Talmadge Smith, Natchez

### BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Term Expires 1985

Charles Hull, Winona

James Spencer, Morton

Larry Fields, Tupelo

Charles Miller, Jackson

Ronnie Robinson, Tupelo

### BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Terms Expire 1983

Paul V. Breazeale, Jackson

Bill Baker, Clinton

Harvey Ray, Meridian

Norris Stampey, Jackson

### BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Term Expires 1985

R. L. Miller, Jackson

Ralph E. Rives, Jackson

Julian Clark, Jackson

Bob Pittman, Jackson

Tom Hudson, Jackson

### BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Term Expires 1985

Cameron Dean, Tribbett

Noel Cumbaa, Greenville

J. Luther Wallin, Jr., Columbus

### BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Term Expires 1984

John Armistead, Tupelo

Haywood Washburn, Tupelo

Larry Taylor, Jackson

Mrs. Sam Waggoner, Newton

Joe Hardin Guyton, Blue Mountain

Mrs. Robert Burns, Jackson

Tom Sumrall, New Albany

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Term Expires 1985

Tom Hederman, Jackson

W. D. Lofton, Brookhaven

William P. Alexander, Cleveland

Jim McGee, Grenada

Earl Craig, Jackson

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE

Term Expires 1985

Bruce Aultman, Hattiesburg

Bob Eustice, Biloxi

Wiley Fairchild, Hattiesburg

Billy McKay, Belzoni

Bob Sigrest, Hattiesburg

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SEMINARY

Term Expires 1985

Paul Stevens, Jackson

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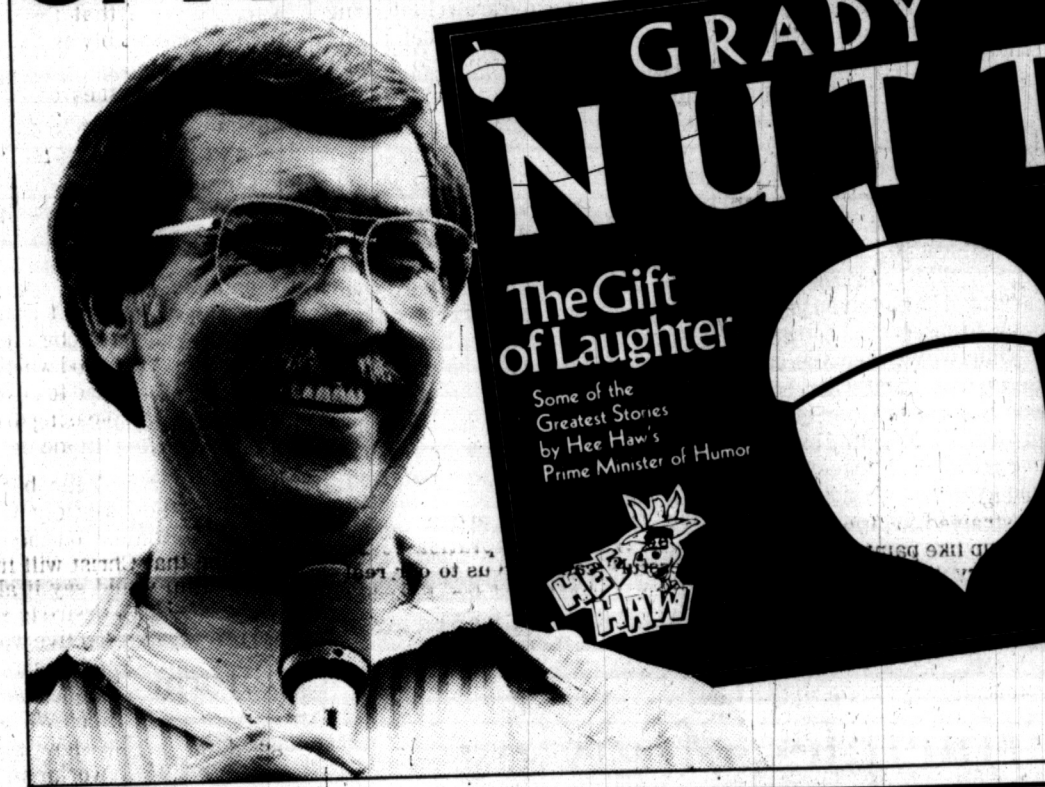
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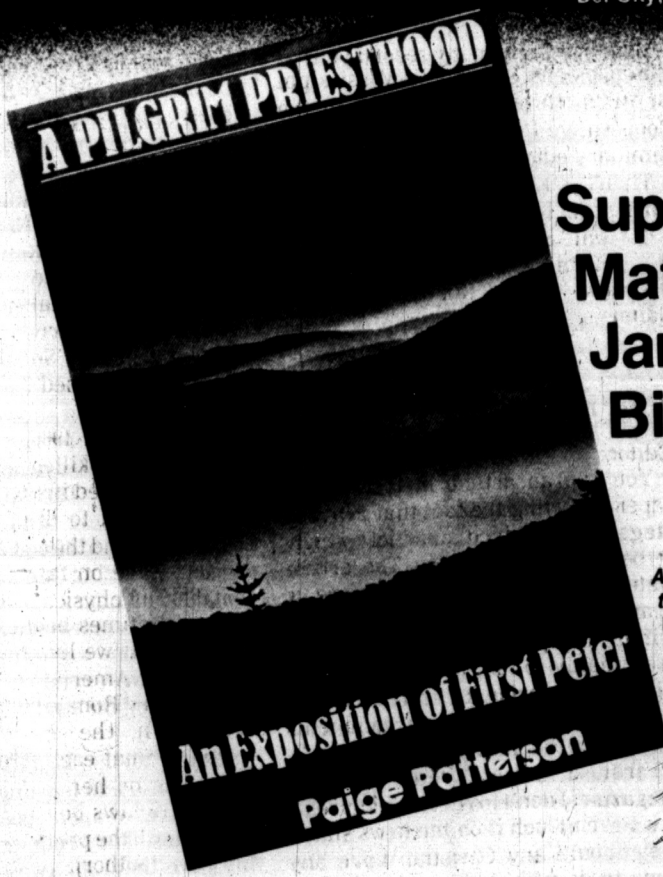
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First Southern Baptist Church,  
Del City, Oklahoma



## Supplementary Material for January Bible Study

A Pilgrim Priesthood: An Exposition of First Peter was written by Dr. Paige Patterson, Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas and President of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies.

Paperback, \$5.95

"Most commentaries put you to sleep — this one will wake you up. The message of 1 Peter comes alive and cries out to be proclaimed."

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First Baptist Church,  
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"... this volume will make a great contribution to the lives of those who study it."

—Dr. James T. Draper, Jr.,  
President, Southern Baptist Convention

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# Just for the Record



NAVILLA CHURCH, McCOMB, recently held a GA and Acteens recognition service, reports Mrs. Vernon Bibby. Acteens crowned Queens were I to r: Shari Fortenberry, Paula Brown, Dee Dean, Christie Boyd, and Patricia Boyd. GAs recognized were Brenda Wicker, Stacy Deer, Robin Wicker, Julie Smith, Tracy Nimon, Becky Chunn, Christy Brown, and Jaunica Baum.

Parway Church, Natchez, has oversubscribed its 1983 Budget of \$425,628, for the seventh consecutive year. The announcement Nov. 7 was Victory Day. Ken Woodruff is director of the church's Forward Program of Church Finance. A total of \$432,588 has been pledged to the financial support of the church for the coming year. There were 507 commitment cards returned by the membership.

Highlights of this year's Forward Program included the churchwide Fellowship Dinner with entertainment by Wayne Watson, and the annual Children's Party. Over 700 attended these events. Committee Chairmen for the 1982 Forward Program were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Campbell, James Waycaster, Rodger Meininger, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Price, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Brewer, Ronnie Smith, Mrs. Roger Davis, and Mrs. Dan Harrison.

Members of Cascilla Baptist Church recently surprised their pastor, Larry Booth, and his family by providing round trip air fare and some extra spending for a trip for the Booth family to return to their home in New Jersey for a visit. The Booths have three young daughters. During the visit the pastor witnessed to other members of his family in New Jersey, and one made a profession of faith.

Record attendance for Sunday School at First Baptist Church, Anguilla, was set Oct. 31, with 131 present as a part of "Spook the Spook" Sunday. The church challenged the community and congregation "to make Halloween (which came on Sunday) a day of the recognition of the true spirit in opposition to the world of superstitious spirits." Robert A. Dottley is pastor. Russell Stewart is Sunday School director.

Parway Church, Natchez: thirtieth anniversary, celebrated Nov. 14; Dianne Evans, Miss Mississippi 1982, featured guest, spoke and presented special music to youth grades 7-college, and sang during morning worship; dinner was served on the grounds; "Potter's Clay," the Youth Ensemble of Parway, the 120 voice youth choir and Dianne Evans presented a musical concert, on Sunday evening.

The church was organized in Nov. 1952, and first met in a store building on Liberty Road as the Fellowship Church. In 1953-54, the church moved to 117 Sergeant Prentiss Drive. In its thirty-year history, the church has had only three pastors, M. R. Megginson, Fred E. Robertson, and the current pastor, Gerald P. Buckley.



WADE BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON COUNTY, in a recent GA recognition service awarded honor stoles, with badges, to 21 girls who had completed steps in Missions Adventures. Recognized were, front row: Rhonda Ard, Misty Waltman, Kim Sharies, Melinda Gatlin, Nina Breland, Tanya Criswell, Tiffany Vaughan; second row: Carol Ann Smith, Christy Persons, Tammy Washington, Kristy Wilks, Crystal Jackson, Cherie Persons, Deirdre Saucier; third row: Tara Wood, Donna Breland, Crystal Brewer, Carla Smith, Melanie Carter, Sara Cavley, and Julie Watson. Leaders are Kathy Persons (director), Debbie Moore, Karen Holloway, and Pam Walchak. Linda Gatlin is WMU director.



HARMONY (UNION COUNTY) held a recognition service for its Acteens, on the theme, "Wherever He leads." Crowned Queen was Shelia Rogers, center left. Leesa Frazier, center right, was made Queen-with-a-Scepter. Kathy Robbins is Acteen leader, Lula Heaton is WMU President, and Mike Smith is pastor.

## Staff Changes

G. Barry Landrum, formerly pastor of First Church, Greenville, Miss., and now pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La., has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Pasadena, Texas. He will begin his duties in Pasadena on Dec. 1.

Glenn Sullivan has moved to the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Concord, in Knoxville, Tenn. He moves from the pastorate of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale.

Simon Nix has accepted a call to First Church, Richland, as minister of music and youth. He goes from Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, where he was also minister of music and youth.

Damascus Baptist Church, Hinds-Madison Association, has called J. B. Warrington, Sr., as pastor. Damascus, on highway 22 between Canton and Flora, is one of the oldest rural churches in central Mississippi, and was constituted in 1903. Warrington's home is at 1604 Woody Drive, Jackson. In recent years he has served as pastor of Unity and Beech Grove Baptist churches in Claiborne County.

Paul Eaves has been called as minister of music at East Louisville Baptist Church, Louisville. He was given a reception by the church on Oct. 31. He goes there from the Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Winston County.

First Baptist Church of Chicora, Wayne County, has called Barry Bruce as pastor. He and his family are from Birmingham, Ala. He is attending the seminary at New Orleans, La.

Tommy Purvis has resigned as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Lincoln County, where he had served five years. He is available for supply work in counties surrounding Lincoln, or for pastorate. His address is Rt. 6, Box 261-A, Brookhaven (phone 833-2431).

Mike Carroll has been called full time as minister of youth at Calvary Baptist Church, Lowndes County. J. E. Sims has been called as Calvary's minister of music.

Jimmy Hudson, minister of youth, First Church, Olive Branch, has resigned to accept a position in Louisiana. He also had served as associational youth director for Northwest Association.

W. R. Harrelson has resigned as pastor of Pheba Church, Clay County.

Adaton Church, Oktibbeha Association, has called Sue Jones as youth director.

## Devotional

### Thanksgiving for a national heritage

By Robert B. Barnes, faculty, New Orleans Seminary

Psalms 100

"My Country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty of thee I sing" — the only country in the world that has a national holiday to remember the grace and goodness of God and to offer to him our humble gratitude.

In spite of all the problems in our land today, there are yet multitudes all over the world who want to come to America. Our Congress has been discussing the immigration quotas and the possible need for changing some of our laws. We don't have to build walls or fences or have armed guards to keep our people in, but rather we have to consider how many to accept.

Even in the midst of the unemployment situation, we are living as well as or better than any other people in any nation anywhere. It might be well to consider what Moses said to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land. He said, "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and your gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then you will forget the Lord your God. . . . You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth. . . ." (Deut. 8:10-18).

Let us at this Thanksgiving time "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalms 100).

Let us at this Thanksgiving time "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalms 100).

## Bible Book

### Principles of giving

By Gene Henderson, pastor  
Fairview, Columbus  
II Cor. 9:1-15

Stewardship of money is an important responsibility. It requires more time and consideration than often is given. Five or ten bucks taken from the billfold immediately before the offering and placed in the plate is a careless practice of stewardship. It is not consistent with Paul's instructions on giving found in II Cor. 9:1-15.

**I. Principle of preparation (9:1-5)**  
Much thought and prayer should precede the act of giving. The Corinthians were well aware of the offering. They had initiated the project earlier. Apparently they already had given some but had pledged to give even more (cf. 8:10-11, 9:5). Their enthusiasm and pioneer spirit had inspired the Macedonians (9:2).

Paul wrote to tell the Corinthians that he was sending some qualified men to assist them in making final arrangements for the offering (9:3; cf. 8:14-24). He was concerned that he and the Corinthians might be embarrassed should they not have the offering complete when he came. Some of the Macedonians likely would be traveling with him (9:4).

Paul wanted to avoid any last minute frenzy or pressure in making the collection. The gift (lit., "Blessing") would be a joy only if it was given willingly and not under hasty coercion. Since Paul referred to the gift as a "previously promised bountiful gift," it must have been a substantial amount that the Corinthians had pledged. Setting giving goals in advance is a challenging method to grow in giving.

**II. Principle of proportion (9:6-11)**  
Picture a farmer sowing seeds. He knows that in order to have an abundant harvest he must sow generously. Paul pictured Christian giving in the same way (9:6). In order to have an abundant spiritual harvest, one must also sow (give) generously.

What should be the attitude or spirit of the Christian in giving? Paul told the Corinthians they should be joyous, lighthearted, even hilarious as they gave (9:7). Giving is a great privilege not a dreaded duty. Duty often demands obedience against the will. Paul said that giving was not to be reluctant nor coercive. Indeed, the gift can only be a "blessing" to the giver as it is offered "cheerfully."

Paul did not mean that giving was to be spontaneous and unplanned. Rather, giving should be a matter of deliberate choice. The gift should be made with attention on God not the gift. God's love is constant at all times

but the cheerful giver experiences God's love more readily than one who clings to his gift. Just as God causes the seed to sprout and the grown plant to reproduce its kind manifold, He also is able to provide the increase for cheerful givers.

Generous giving is never hazardous. Paul did not advocate a "give to get" motive. Reward is not offered as a motive to give. However, those who give with pure motives cannot hold back the floodtide of God's giving. Not only will the giver be fully supplied for himself (all sufficiency), he also will be supplied for greater giving (9:8).

Psalms 112:9 is quoted to reinforce the argument that God will prosper the cheerful giver. In 9:10 Paul assured the Corinthians that God would "supply," "multiply," and "increase" their resources just as he governed the laws of agriculture. A cheerful giver can expect to be enriched by God in every area of life (9:11). Faithful stewardship is rewarded with greater stewardship responsibility (cf. Mt. 25:14-30).

**III. Principle of partnership (9:12-14)**  
Cheerful giving by the Corinthians would result in a divine-human partnership. Through the gift of the Corinthians and the grace of God, the needs of the saints in Jerusalem would be met, but ultimately God would be glorified. The use of "ministry" and "service" in 9:12 further linked the partnership. "Ministry" is service like that of a deacon, while "service" is related to the offering of sacrifice in public worship. The gift of the Corinthians not only would fill up what was lacking to the poor saints, it would overflow to the praise and adoration of God.

Paul also felt that the offering would help the partnership between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians. The gift would verify the conversion of the Gentiles in the minds of the Jewish Christians. They would not only praise God for the gift but also for the Christian confession of the Gentiles (9:13). The Jewish Christians would indicate their participation in the partnership by their intercessory prayers for the Corinthians (9:14).

God's indescribable gift sometimes in the process of daily living may be applied to food, friends or innumerable other possibilities, but ultimately the indescribable can only be Jesus our sin bearer (9:15).

The Christian faith has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried. G. K. Chesterton.

## Uniform

### God empowers Gideon

By Charles S. Davis, associate  
professor of Bible, MC  
Judges 6:1 to 8:21

On a recent test in a Bible survey class, I asked the students to name six of the Judges along with one major accomplishment of each. Apparently one student had learned the names but not the accomplishments, for when he came to Gideon he wrote: "Gideon was a man who went around putting Bibles in hotels and motels."

One can sometimes sense the magnitude of a figure by the use subsequent generations make of his name. Gideon was certainly the most important leader of his generation and the most admirable of the Judges. That a society engaged in the distribution of Bibles has taken the name "Gideons" as its name is eloquent testimony to the truth that God can accomplish great victories far out of proportion to the number of persons involved in the task when these persons are totally committed to God's call and God's cause.

**I. Conditions in Israel are serious (6:1-10)**

In the recurring cycles of rebellion against God and oppression by foreign invaders, the Lord allowed the Midianites to serve as the agent of his judgment on his sinning people for a period of seven years. The Midianites were nomadic raiders who dwelt to the south and east of Israel in the Arabian Desert. Entering the land from the east, the invaders spread across the land as far southwestward as Philistine Gaza. They waited until the Israelites' crops were ready to harvest, then they ravaged the land "like a plague of locusts."

Adding to the Israelites' sense of helplessness and bewilderment was a new "secret weapon" possessed by the Midianites. They rode on camels and this gave them an awesome mobility which must have struck terror into the hearts of the Israelite foot soldiers. In desperation the children of Israel cried unto the Lord for help.

**II. Commission of Gideon is certain (6:11-40)**

In spite of his people's rebellion and in response to their cry for his help, God moved to deliver the Israelites from their oppressors. God manifested himself in human form (the angel of the Lord) and appeared to a young farmer named Gideon. The angel addresses him in extravagant terms, reflective of the potential for courageous achievement that the Lord knew Gideon possessed. "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor."

Gideon's response was a typically human one: "If the Lord is with us,

why has all this befallen us?" Gideon had brooded so long over Israel's wrongs that he could not see the help God had given in the past, and could not believe that God would give help for the future.

Even less was Gideon prepared to believe that he would be the human agent through whom God would deliver his people. But God gave him the two basic assurances that every true servant of the Lord possesses: the awareness of a divine commission (6:14) and the promise of God's presence (6:16). With God's help, Gideon would lead in driving out the Midianites.

**III. Company of the committed is victorious (7:1-8:21)**

Twice Gideon requested signs and received reassurance that his call to deliver Israel was authentic (6:21-24; 6:36-40). Gideon issued a call to arms and 32,000 men responded from his own tribe of Manasseh and the three northernmost tribes.

God informed Gideon that his 32,000 men were too many, for when deliverance came they likely would assume they had won the victory by their own strength. Those who at first responded were cut down by two tests. The first test was that of fear. Some 22,000 were willing to acknowledge that they were afraid, a tribute to their candor if not to their courage, and home they went.

As the 10,000 remaining soldiers drank water from a running stream, Gideon observed the men who were most alert and prepared for battle. With the men who cupped their hands to drink, some 300 strong, the Lord pledged that he would deliver Israel.

Gideon divided his 300 men—each equipped with a ram's horn trumpet and a pitcher containing a smoldering torch—into three companies which stood on different sides of the Midianite camp. Shortly after 10 p.m., Gideon gave the signal and the three companies simultaneously blew their trumpets, broke their pitchers, and raised their torches. The silent darkness exploded with a crash of sound and a blazing circle of light. The 300 men of Israel shouted: "The sword of the Lord, and Gideon." Panic and chaos swept the camp of the Midianites and they fled in total disarray and defeat.

## Revival Results

Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland: nine additions on promise of letter; six for baptism; Gene Pritchard, evangelist; Tom Larrimore, music evangelist.

## Life and Work

### Faith and action

By David McCubbin, associate  
pastor, First, Meridian  
James 2

In the final point of last week's lesson (Trials as reason to clarify our commitment) I touched on the main theme of this lesson. "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (1:27 RSV). Perhaps I'm stretching a point here but it seems to me that visiting the afflicted is representation of actions or works and keeping oneself unstained . . . is expressive of faith. There is only one way to keep oneself unstained and that is by a faith relationship to the holy God who has made provision for forgiveness and cleansing from sin.

Using this as a springboard for chapter 2, James dove into a specific area where faith should be demonstrated by actions. The problem had to do with judging others on the basis of externals. James further pointed out that such judging breaks the law concerning love and then discussed at length the inseparability of faith and works.

**Faith expressed in appreciating the worth of others (2:1-7).** James moved into an area that is more subtle than visiting the afflicted. The man was so practical that he chose a specific example which lets few off the hook.

The truth that James illuminated is that every person is of worth to God. This is to be reflected in the attitude and actions of believers. "My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith . . ." (2:1). To show what he meant by partiality he used an example of the difference in treatment of a well-to-do person and a poor person coming to a worship service. James may have referred to a specific instance or reoccurring instances of which his readers were aware. On the other hand he may have given an imaginary situation. However, few if any, of his readers could say that they did not understand what he meant and were not guilty in this area. This is all the more true in our day. With James's illustration of his point who can say, "Not guilty."

It behooves us all to grow in our faith until we more and more see all persons from God's point of view—though all are sinners, each is of inestimable worth. Our actions should demonstrate this conviction.

**Judging between the worth of persons breaks the law of love (2:8-13).** Sin is missing the mark. The mark is, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This James labeled as the royal law. Jesus placed it next in line to lov-

ing God with all your heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37-39). James said that to show partiality between persons was to commit sin by transgressing the law.

In verse 10 James pointed out that God's laws stand as one. You can't trade off disobedience of one for obedience of another. If one misses the mark at one place he misses the whole target. To break one law is to be guilty of all.

Let's enlarge on that. God's word comes to us about repentance and faith. We have God's word about ministry, about evangelism, about ethics. There is a tendency for us to hear only what we want to hear. He speaks to us about faith and action, each an intricate part of the other. But we conveniently become deaf to that which inconveniences us the most.

We are guilty of all. Our greatest need is mercy. We want to be judged by the law of liberty—freedom from the damning effect of our sins through the sacrifice of Christ. In showing partiality we are judging without mercy—something that we ourselves cannot stand up against in our relationship to God.

**Faith and Works (2:14-26).** In this section James stressed the point that faith and works go hand in hand and that one is incomplete and inadequate without the other. Note v. 26 "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead."

James used the example of Abraham to show that action was an essential part of faith. Paul used Abraham as an example also to explain that a person is justified by faith and not by works. We are really not in the same ball park when we compare James 2:21-24 with Romans 4:1-3 and Galatians 3:6-7. Paul dealt with becoming a Christian, James with what a Christian does because he is a Christian. The passage in James, I believe, needs to be associated with Ephesians 2:8-10. Both these passages tell us that a product of faith is actions or good works. When we are saved through faith we become his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works. Abraham's faith was evidenced through his action. Without his faith, his actions would have been meaningless. Faith and action are not one and the same but each is incomplete without the other.

While millions have regretted tasting alcohol, no person will ever be sorry he rejected it. *Gordon Childers*

Everyone thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself. *Leo Tolstoy*